

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter.

Claims:

1-49. (Cancelled).

1 ~~50~~ (New) A method for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, the method implemented by an automated notification system, the method comprising the steps of:
monitoring travel data corresponding to a vehicle at a computer system; and
based upon the travel data and in advance of the vehicle's arrival at the vehicle stop, communicating a message from the computer system to a remote, portable, computer-based, personal, communications device transported by the user and that is remote from the vehicle stop to indicate impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop.

61 2 ~~51~~ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the message is communicated over the Internet to the communications device.

3 ~~52~~ (New) The method of claim ~~51~~², wherein the message is an email that is communicated, at least in part, over the Internet.

4 ~~53~~ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, further comprising the steps of receiving an email address, storing the email address, and communicating the message to the stored email address.

5 ~~54~~ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

6 ~~55~~ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the travel data is distance information.

7 ~~56~~ (New) The method of claim ~~55~~⁷⁶, further comprising the step of updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

8⁵⁷ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the travel data is timing information.

9⁵⁸ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, further comprising the step of receiving and analyzing signals from satellites pertaining to positions of the vehicle.

10⁵⁹ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, further comprising the steps of monitoring locations of the vehicle, comparing the locations to map data, and initiating the message based upon the comparison.

11⁶⁰ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the vehicle is a plane, train, boat, or motor vehicle.

12⁶¹ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the communications device is a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

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13⁶² (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the computer system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture comprising a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

14⁶³ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the message comprises a description of travel status of the vehicle.

15⁶⁴ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the message comprises an audible sound.

16⁶⁵ (New) The method of claim ~~50~~¹, wherein the message comprises text or an image for display on a screen associated with the communications device.

1766. (New) The method of claim ¹50, further comprising the steps of permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication of the message.

1867. (New) The method of claim ¹50, wherein the vehicle has a scheduled route of a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the communication of the message is initiated based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

1968. (New) The method of claim ¹50, further comprising the steps of monitoring content of the vehicle and determining the vehicle stop based upon the content.

2069. (New) The method of claim ¹⁹68, wherein the content is a package to be delivered.

2170. (New) The method of claim ¹⁹68, wherein the content is a service provider transported by the vehicle.

2271. (New) The method of claim ¹50 wherein the message includes a map indicating a location of the vehicle.

2372. (New) The method of claim ¹50 wherein the message indicates that the vehicle is delayed and thus will not arrive at a predetermined scheduled arrival time.

2473. (New) A method for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop; the method implemented by an automated notification system, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring travel data corresponding to a vehicle at a computer system; and

based upon the travel data and in advance of the vehicle's arrival at the vehicle stop, communicating a message from the computer system to a plurality of remote personal communications devices transported by a plurality of users to indicate impending arrival of the

vehicle at the vehicle stop, the plurality of remote personal communications devices residing at different locations that are remote from the vehicle stop.

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~~74.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, wherein the message is communicated over the Internet to the communications device.

~~25~~
~~75.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~74~~²⁵, wherein the message is an email that is communicated, at least in part, over the Internet.

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~~76.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, further comprising the steps of receiving an email address, storing the email address, and communicating the message to the stored email address.

~~28~~
~~77.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

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~~78.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, wherein the travel data is distance information.

~~30~~
~~79.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~78~~²⁹, further comprising the step of updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

~~31~~
~~80.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, wherein the travel data is timing information.

~~32~~
~~81.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, further comprising the step of receiving and analyzing signals from satellites pertaining to positions of the vehicle.

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~~82.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, further comprising the steps of monitoring locations of the vehicle, comparing the locations to map data, and initiating the message based upon the comparison.

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~~83.~~ (New) The method of claim ~~73~~²⁴, wherein the vehicle is a plane, train, boat, or motor vehicle.

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84. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, wherein the communications device is a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

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85. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, wherein the computer system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture comprising a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

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86. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, wherein the message comprises a description of travel status of the vehicle.

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87. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, wherein the message comprises an audible sound.

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88. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, wherein the message comprises text or an image for display on a screen associated with the communications device.

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89. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, further comprising the steps of permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication of the message.

⁴¹
90. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, wherein the vehicle has a scheduled route of a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the communication of the message is initiated based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

⁴²
91. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73, further comprising the steps of monitoring content of the vehicle and determining the vehicle stop based upon the content.

⁴³
92. (New) The method of claim ⁴²91, wherein the content is a package to be delivered.

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93. (New) The method of claim ⁴²91, wherein the content is a service provider transported by the vehicle.

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94. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73 wherein the message includes a map indicating a location of the vehicle.

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95. (New) The method of claim ²⁴73 wherein the message indicates that the vehicle is delayed and thus will not arrive at a predetermined scheduled arrival time.

⁴⁷
96. (New) A method for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, the method implemented by an automated notification system, the method comprising the steps of:

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monitoring travel data corresponding to a vehicle at a computer system; and
based upon the travel data and in advance of the vehicle's arrival at the vehicle stop, communicating a message from the computer system to a remote general-purpose computer-based communications device associated with the user and that is remote from the vehicle stop to indicate impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop, the general-purpose computer-based communications device being designed to communicate with other communications devices that are undedicated to the computer system.

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97. (New) The method of claim ⁴⁷96, wherein the message is communicated over the Internet to the communications device.

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98. (New) The method of claim ⁴⁸97, wherein the message is an email that is communicated, at least in part, over the Internet.

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99. (New) The method of claim ⁴⁷96, further comprising the steps of receiving an email address, storing the email address, and communicating the message to the stored email address.

~~51~~ 100. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

~~52~~ 101. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the travel data is distance information.

~~53~~ 102. (New) The method of claim ~~52~~ 101, further comprising the step of updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

~~54~~ 103. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the travel data is timing information.

~~55~~ 104. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, further comprising the step of receiving and analyzing signals from satellites pertaining to positions of the vehicle.

~~56~~ 105. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, further comprising the steps of monitoring locations of the vehicle, comparing the locations to map data, and initiating the message based upon the comparison.

~~57~~ 106. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the vehicle is a plane, train, boat, or motor vehicle.

~~58~~ 107. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the communications device is a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

~~59~~ 108. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the computer system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture comprising a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

~~60~~ 109. (New) The method of claim ~~47~~ 96, wherein the message comprises a description of travel status of the vehicle.

~~61~~ 110. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷, wherein the message comprises an audible sound.

~~62~~ 111. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷, wherein the message comprises text or an image for display on a screen associated with the communications device.

~~63~~ 112. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷, further comprising the steps of permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication of the message.

~~64~~ 113. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷, wherein the vehicle has a scheduled route of a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the communication of the message is initiated based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

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~~65~~ 114. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷, further comprising the steps of monitoring content of the vehicle and determining the vehicle stop based upon the content.

~~66~~ 115. (New) The method of claim ~~114~~⁶⁵, wherein the content is a package to be delivered.

~~67~~ 116. (New) The method of claim ~~114~~⁶⁵, wherein the content is a service provider transported by the vehicle.

~~68~~ 117. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷ wherein the message includes a map indicating a location of the vehicle.

~~69~~ 118. (New) The method of claim ~~96~~⁴⁷ wherein the message indicates that the vehicle is delayed and thus will not arrive at a predetermined scheduled arrival time.

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119. (New) A system for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, the system implemented by an automated notification system, the system comprising:

means for monitoring travel data corresponding to a vehicle at a computer system; and

means for, based upon the travel data and in advance of the vehicle's arrival at the vehicle stop, communicating a message from the computer system to a remote, portable, computer-based, personal, communications device transported by the user and that is remote from the vehicle stop to indicate impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop.

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120. (New) The system of claim ⁷⁰119, wherein the message is communicated over the Internet to the communications device.

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121. (New) The system of claim ⁷¹120, wherein the message is an email that is communicated, at least in part, over the Internet.

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122. (New) The system of claim ⁷⁰119, further comprising means for receiving an email address, means for storing the email address, and means for causing the message to be communicated to the stored email address.

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123. (New) The system of claim ⁷⁰119, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

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124. (New) The system of claim ⁷⁰119, wherein the travel data is distance information.

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125. (New) The system of claim ⁷⁵124, further comprising a means for updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

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126. (New) The system of claim ⁷⁰119, wherein the travel data is timing information.

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127. (New) The system of claim 119, further comprising a means for receiving and analyzing signals from satellites pertaining to positions of the vehicle.

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128. (New) The system of claim 119, further comprising means for monitoring locations of the vehicle, means for comparing the locations to map data, and means for initiating the message based upon the comparison.

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129. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the vehicle is a plane, train, boat, or motor vehicle.

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130. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the communications device is a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

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131. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the computer system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture comprising a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

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132. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the message comprises a description of travel status of the vehicle.

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133. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the message comprises an audible sound.

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134. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the message comprises text or an image for display on a screen associated with the communications device.

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135. (New) The system of claim 119, further comprising means for permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and a means for permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication of the message.

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136. (New) The system of claim 119, wherein the vehicle has a scheduled route of a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the communication of the message is initiated based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

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137. (New) The system of claim 119, further comprising a means for monitoring content of the vehicle and a means for determining the vehicle stop based upon the content.

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138. (New) The system of claim 137, wherein the content is a package to be delivered.

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139. (New) The system of claim 137, wherein the content is a service provider transported by the vehicle.

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140. (New) The system of claim 119 wherein the message includes a map indicating a location of the vehicle.

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141. (New) The system of claim 119 wherein the message indicates that the vehicle is delayed and thus will not arrive at a predetermined scheduled arrival time.

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142. (New) A system for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, the system implemented by an automated notification system, the system comprising:

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means for monitoring travel data corresponding to a vehicle at a computer system; and

means for, based upon the travel data and in advance of the vehicle's arrival at the vehicle stop, communicating messages from the computer system to a plurality of remote personal communications devices transported by a plurality of users to indicate impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop, the plurality of remote personal communications devices residing at different locations that are remote from the vehicle stop.

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143. (New) The system of claim 142, wherein at least one of the messages is communicated over the Internet to the communications device. 93

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144. (New) The system of claim 143, wherein the at least one message is an email that is communicated, at least in part, over the Internet. 94

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145. (New) The system of claim 142, further comprising means for receiving an email address, means for storing the email address, and means for communicating at least one of the messages to the stored email address. 93

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146. (New) The system of claim 142, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information. 93

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147. (New) The system of claim 142, wherein the travel data is distance information. 93

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148. (New) The system of claim 147, further comprising a means for updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle. 98

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149. (New) The system of claim 142, wherein the travel data is timing information. 93

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150. (New) The system of claim 142, further comprising a means for receiving and analyzing signals from satellites pertaining to positions of the vehicle. 93

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151. (New) The system of claim 142, further comprising a means for monitoring locations of the vehicle, a means for comparing the locations to map data, and a means for initiating the message based upon the comparison. 93

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152. (New) The system of claim 142, wherein the vehicle is a plane, train, boat, or motor vehicle. 93

~~104~~ 153. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, wherein the communications devices include any of the following: a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

~~105~~ 154. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, wherein the computer system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture comprising a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

~~106~~ 155. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, wherein the messages comprise a description of travel status of the vehicle.

~~107~~ 156. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, wherein the messages comprise an audible sound.

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cont'd ~~108~~ 157. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, wherein the messages comprise text or an image for display on a screen associated with the communications devices.

~~109~~ 158. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, further comprising means for permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of a communication to at least one of the messages.

~~110~~ 159. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, wherein the vehicle has a scheduled route of a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the communication of at least one of the messages is initiated based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

~~111~~ 160. (New) The system of claim ~~142~~ 93, further comprising a means for monitoring content of the vehicle and determining the vehicle stop based upon the content.

~~112~~ 161. (New) The system of claim ~~160~~ 111, wherein the content is a package to be delivered.

~~113~~
~~162.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~160~~¹¹¹, wherein the content is a service provider transported by the vehicle.

~~114~~
~~163.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~142~~⁹³ wherein the message includes a map indicating a location of the vehicle.

~~115~~
~~164.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~142~~⁹³ wherein the message indicates that the vehicle is delayed and thus will not arrive at a predetermined scheduled arrival time.

~~116~~
~~165.~~ (New) A system for notifying a user in advance of an impending arrival of a vehicle at a vehicle stop, the system implemented by an automated notification system, the system comprising:

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a means for monitoring travel data corresponding to a vehicle at a computer system; and
a means for, based upon the travel data and in advance of the vehicle's arrival at the vehicle stop, communicating a message from the computer system to a remote general-purpose computer-based communications device associated with the user and that is remote from the vehicle stop to indicate impending arrival of the vehicle at the vehicle stop, the general-purpose computer-based communications device being designed to communicate with other communications devices that are undedicated to the computer system.

~~117~~
~~166.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the message is communicated over the Internet to the communications device.

~~118~~
~~167.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~166~~¹¹⁷, wherein the message is an email that is communicated, at least in part, over the Internet.

~~119~~
~~168.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, further comprising a means for receiving an email address, a means for storing the email address, and a means for communicating the message to the stored email address.

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~~169.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the travel data comprises scheduled stop information.

¹²¹
~~170.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the travel data is distance information.

¹²²
~~171.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~170~~¹²¹, further comprising a means for updating the scheduled stop information based upon tracking information pertaining to the vehicle.

¹²³
~~172.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the travel data is timing information.

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~~173.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, further comprising a means for receiving and analyzing signals from satellites pertaining to positions of the vehicle.

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~~174.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, further comprising a means for monitoring locations of the vehicle, a means for comparing the locations to map data, and a means for initiating the message based upon the comparison.

¹²⁶
~~175.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the vehicle is a plane, train, boat, or motor vehicle.

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~~176.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the communications device is a computer, television, pager, or telephone.

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~~177.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the computer system is a single computer or comprises a distributed architecture comprising a plurality of computers that are communicatively coupled.

¹²⁹
~~178.~~ (New) The system of claim ~~165~~¹¹⁶, wherein the message comprises a description of travel status of the vehicle.

¹³⁰
~~179.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶²~~165~~, wherein the message comprises an audible sound.

¹³¹
~~180.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶~~165~~, wherein the message comprises text or an image for display on a screen associated with the communications device.

¹³²
~~181.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶~~165~~, further comprising a means for permitting a party to establish a communication session with the computer system and a means for permitting the party to define one or more preferences criteria that, once met, will cause initiation of the communication of the message.

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~~182.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶~~165~~, wherein the vehicle has a scheduled route of a plurality of vehicle stops and wherein the communication of the message is initiated based upon the vehicle's progress along the stops of the route.

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c.no). ¹³⁸
~~183.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶~~165~~, further comprising a means for monitoring content of the vehicle and a means for determining the vehicle stop based upon the content.

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~~184.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹³⁴~~183~~, wherein the content is a package to be delivered.

¹³⁶
~~185.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹³⁴~~183~~, wherein the content is a service provider transported by the vehicle.

¹³⁷
~~186.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶~~165~~ wherein the message includes a map indicating a location of the vehicle.

¹³⁸
~~187.~~ (New) The system of claim ¹¹⁶~~165~~ wherein the message indicates that the vehicle is delayed and thus will not arrive at a predetermined scheduled arrival time.